As per current EXIM policy, sugar exports are under Open General Licence and sugar mills/exporters are exporting sugar as per their commercial prudence. The Government does not maintain export prices and other details relating to export of sugar, these being matters strictly within the domain of commercial prudence of the concerned trading entities.

Powerloom Sector under crisis due to new Exim Policy

†3873. SHRIJANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that powerloom sector is reeling.under severe crisis in the whole country due to New Import-Export Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to bail out powerloom sector from this crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) No Sir. On the contrary, new Exim policy aims to promote powerloom sector as textile including garments has been declared as one of the thrust sectors in the new Exim Policy. Moreover, the Policy has also identified Tirupur for Hosiery, Panipat for woollen blanket and Ludhiana for woollen knitwear as towns of exports excellence in which sizeable numbers of powerloom units would get the specified benefits.

GDP growth rate during the Tenth Plan Period

3874. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the projected annual GDP growth rate of eight per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan will depend largely upon achieving substantial growth in export of services by the Indian Information Technology sector;

(b) whether a deep rooted international conspiracy to discourage India IT professionals and entrepreneurs from harnessing the global market is manifested in the treatment of harassment meted out by the administration in Malaysia/Indonesia in the recent past and in the Netherland and England recently; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the initiatives taken, if any, to deal with such indirect violation of the spirit of WTO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The projected annual GDP growth rate of 8% during the Tenth Five Year Plan does not depend largely on the performance of any one sector, but on the balanced development of the entire economy.

(b) At the moment, there does not appear to be any deep rooted international conspiracy to discourage Indian IT professionals and entrepreneurs from harnessing the global market. However, the kind of incidents that have taken plan in Malaysia, Indonesia, Netherlands and England appear to be linked to economic recession the world over.

(c) Liberalisation of visa and other procedure for visits of professionals for supply of services in WTO member countries is one issue which India has been taking up actively during the WTO negotiations on Trade in Services presently underway in the WTO under the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

Bilateral Free Trade Agreement with Singapore

3875. SHRI K.NATWARSINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:
SHRIDATTAMEGHE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Singapore have decided to take an important step closer towards a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been taken along with the details thereof;

(c) to what extent India is likely to be benefited by this trade agreement;

(d) whether this question was also discussed during the Singapore Prime Minister's visit to India;

(e) if so, the decisions taken; and

(0 the other agreements signed between the two countries?